

Appendix B

Section 504/ADA Compliance

The Town of Stoneham has begun to make changes to its parks and recreation sites to make these more accessible. Examples include the accessible shelter and tables at the Steele playground, the accessible playgrounds at the Colonial Park and Robin Hood Schools, and the accessible swing in the play equipment at the East School playground. However, as can be seen in the ADA self-assessment, there are many improvements that need to be made to the parks to make them more accessible. The intent is to improve accessibility as the parks and playgrounds are improved in the future.

Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of the Section 504 Coordinator - The Town has designated Thomas Younger, Town Administrator, as the 504 Coordinator. See the attached letter.
2. Grievance Procedures - The town has developed a Section 504/ADA Compliance Grievance procedure, as is outlined in the attached materials.
3. Public Notification Requirements – Please see attached documents as evidence that the town has met this requirement.
4. Participation – The Town of Stoneham re-established its Disability Commission in 2017. As part of this update to the Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Commission reviewed the draft ADA Self-Assessment at its July 25, 2017 meeting. The feedback from the Commission, received through Lorna Saulnier, Chair of the Disability Commission, was that they were pleased with the Assessment and the proposed suggestions for improvements.

Part II: Employment Practices

The enclosed letter indicates how the town departments responsible for the maintenance and programming of parks, playgrounds and open space in the town adhere to the town's employment practices, and how those practices are in compliance with ADA guidelines.

Part III: Program Accessibility

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, Town of Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

As part of the Stoneham OSRP, an ADA self-evaluation analysis was conducted of the town-owned permanently-protected parks and conservation areas with any facilities used by the public for recreation. See the list below of the Permanently-protected open space properties in Stoneham that were the subject of the ADA Self-Assessment.

Permanently-Protected Parks and Conservation Areas	Parking	Pathway/ Trail	Toilet Facility	Ramp	Picnic Area	Water Fountain	Playground
Pomeworth Field	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓
Recreation Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓
Cerrone Memorial	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
Rounds Playground	x	x	x	x	✓	x	✓
Whip Hill Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Dike's Pond	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Barton Estate	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Land off Meadow Road & Fiske Avenue	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Land off Corey Ave., Ferdinand, Marion & Spring Streets	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Land off Lake Avenue	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Crystal Lake Watershed	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Land off Whipple Ave. & Brookbridge Road	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Old Burial Ground	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Unicorn Recreation	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Tri-Community Bikeway	This facility is currently under construction - fall 2017						

The analysis therefore did NOT include school properties, state-owned facilities, or privately-owned facilities, although brief visits were made to such facilities to inventory the available facilities and to document where obvious efforts to address ADA Accessibility (hereinafter "Accessibility") had been made. Also, no analysis was undertaken of the town-owned conservation areas that had no parking or trails facilities, since they have no current recreational programming.

The field analyses were undertaken using the checklists provided in the OSRP Workbook; notes summarizing the significant details of the facilities are below.

Also included below are initial recommendations for improvements to the properties to improve Accessibility. It is recommended that based upon these findings the Town consider working with a registered architect to make improvements to structures, and work with the DPW and volunteer groups to undertake exterior improvements, to improve Accessibility to the facilities.

Pomeworth Field

Lower Pomeworth Field

Trail over bridge from School to Basketball courts is in good condition but as it goes east of the Basketball courts it becomes partially dirt-covered with some cracking, but remains appropriate width and slope. Need to uncover entire width of paved area. Paved trail from courts to Capen Street, sidewalk along Capen Street, and trail past Playground are in good condition and meet width and slope parameters.

The paved trail runs up to the Playground, but there is no accessibility to PG equipment due to 6" drop off into PG which does not have accessible surface (has wood chips). Nearby picnic table is on uneven grassed surface and does not have appropriate ADA compliant accessible overhang at end.



View of lower Pomeworth Basketball courts, baseball field and Accessible pathway to school from Lower Pomeworth. Note stairway at right edge of image to Upper Pomeworth.

Upper Pomeworth Field

The only facilities here are the field themselves, the angled parking along Calthea Street, and the low fence (with occasional openings). There are also stairways connecting upper and Lower Pomeworth).

Transition Plan

In addition to clearing dirt of trail near the basketball court noted above, transition plan should include establishment of one Accessible Parking Space at each of the lots at the end of the Greenway Trail, at the lot off Calthea Street, and in the angled parking area along Calthea Street.

Also, eventually there should be a ramp (along with the existing stairs) to provide access between lower and upper Pomeworth Fields.

Make appropriate changes to improve accessibility to the playground at lower Pomeworth (including associated picnic area).



Pathway and playground at lower Pomeworth Field, showing Accessibility issue



Accessible ramps to access Pomeworth Fields from adjacent school

Recreation Park

Some efforts have been made to make Recreation Park more Accessible to individuals with disabilities. There are two ADA compliant parking spaces in appropriate locations near the gates to the field/seating area. Gates are wide enough for wheelchairs. There is a flat paved walkway of appropriate width (but with some surface cracking issues) that goes between the two main gates and around the bleacher seating area. An Accessible ramp leads to the upper level near the field house, and another ramp (with a “door sill” issue) provides access to the interior of the field house. The single-stall bathroom in the interior of the field house is largely in conformity with ADA standards, but is generally unavailable during games (door to interior space is locked, but doors to non-Accessible bathrooms at end of field house are generally open).

At the playground area, the 48” gate cannot open all the way, and therefore does not provide full access, due to uneven ground stopping the gate swing. Disabled individuals could not access the picnic table, benches or playground equipment due to uneven ground with a surface of loose sand, wood chips or grass. Picnic table is not designed in accordance with ADA standards.

Transition Plan

Level and seal cracking pavement. Adjust concrete slope at ramp to interior space to eliminate small rise from ramp to door-sill of field house. Install additional ramp to upper level near field house concession stand (this area is difficult to access past

the ramp to the interior, as there is only 35" of width to get by the existing ramp to the concession area. Ensure interior largely-ADA-compliant bathroom is available during game times by having key available at concession stand (and posting this at the bottom of the access ramp). Make minor changes to interior bathroom to make completely ADA compliant (e.g., height of toilet paper dispenser and towel dispenser, and adjustment of one of the grab bars by the toilet). Since there are 70+ parking spaces in the parking lot, at least one additional Accessible parking space should be established.



North side of field house at Recreation Park showing ramp access to interior space and ADA compliant restroom.



Recreation Park facilities showing paved pathway from gates to seating area, field house/concession stand



Playground at Recreation Field showing uneven non- Accessible surfaces

Cerrone Park

There are no Accessible designated spaces in the un-striped parking area which can hold approximately 50 vehicles. There are openings in the low fence that are sufficient width for wheelchairs, but the surface is grassed; there are no paved walkway area and no seating. At the end of the parking lot is an access road leading up-slope to a gate, beyond which are located portable toilets (one ADA Compliant), but there is insufficient space for a wheelchair to get by the gate, and the facilities are located on uneven grassy surface. The field house (storage and concession stand) is located in the center of the field and is not Accessible.

Transition Plan

Establish and mark 2 ADA compliant parking spaces in an area near a fence opening, preferably in the end of the lot near the portable toilets. Make the ground surface around the toilets Accessible, and change the gate to allow wheelchair access even when gate is closed. Alternatively, relocate toilets to a corner of the paved parking area. Consider paving a small area at one of the gate openings near the ADA compliant spaces to allow wheelchair access past the fence.



Portable toilets at Cerrone showing lack of ADA compliant access

Rounds Playground

There is no parking associated with this neighborhood park. However, cars sometimes park along the narrow MacArthur Road. There is no ADA-compliant access to the playground equipment or the ball field area; the ground surface consists of loose gravel, grassed areas, and wood chip surfaces. There are several benches and picnic tables, but the tables are not Accessible. There is reportedly a plan to establish a sidewalk along Broadway, where there is a steep sloped stairway into rounds Playground, but there is not a current plan to extend the sidewalk along MacArthur Road to the location where the entrance to the park is level with the street.

Transition Plan

Establish sidewalk on MacArthur Road; provide paved pathway access into playground and accessible picnic table from the sidewalk. Establish ADA-compliant street parking on MacArthur Road nearest to level entrance to playground.



Rounds Playground showing entrance from MacArthur Road and unofficial parking along roadside

Whip Hill Park

Narrow entrance road leads to small (8+- car) parking lot. Road continues uphill (100 yards+-) to house/meeting space. Additional parking 25 yard+- past house. Small parking area in front of garage. ADA compliant access at South end of house (main entrance). Interior of house has reportedly not been updated, so assumed that bathroom on main floor is not Accessible. Several paths on the site, but all with steep grades or uneven surfaces and not Accessible. Narrow gate leads to walled garden area. Pathway in garden area consists of large brick pavers separated by gravel.

Transition Plan

Establish Accessible parking spaces at house/meeting space in front of garages. Improve interior bathroom to HC standards. Establish paved/hard smooth surface for pathway in walled garden. Work with volunteers (e.g., Boy Scouts) to determine feasibility of laying out a course of Accessible pathway; work with volunteers/town to establish Accessible loop trail.



Whip Hill Park meeting facility. Note possible location of future ADA parking in front of garage



Entrance to House/meeting space at Whip Hill Park

Unicorn Golf Course

At the north end of the overall Unicorn Recreation site, the Unicorn Golf Course is an 18-hole course with clubhouse and restrooms. It has an 80+ space parking lot with 2 accessible spaces closest to the clubhouse entrance, paved pathways with appropriate width and slopes to access the clubhouse and restrooms from the parking area, sitting area adjacent to the clubhouse, and golf carts available to use on the course. The ADA access was cracked and raised in several areas by tree roots, and therefore not a smooth entrance. In addition, on the day inspected, a golf cart was parked at one end of the sloped ADA path, precluding access. The bathrooms were mostly accessible, with some limitations (e.g., dispensers were too high, and pull handles to exit were high).

Transition Plan

Establish 2 additional HC spaces nearest to clubhouse (both existing were used on day of inspection). Review details of bathrooms to correct HC accessibility issues. Put up signs to prevent golf carts from being parked on ADA-compliant access pathway.



Unicorn Golf Course ADA-compliant pathway blocked by golf cart



Unicorn Golf Course showing Accessible parking

Stoneham Oaks Golf Course – Unicorn south

The small starter house for this 9-hole course has 2 Accessible spaces for the roughly 40 spaces available in the parking lot closest to the start. The entrance to the start house is at grade with the parking area, although there are some minor abrupt changes to grades (1- 2 “) where the paved trail meets the entrance to the building. Paved trail to first tee is steep (14%) and transition to down-slope is narrow. A farther trail is less steep but would be accessed through a rough-surfaced paved parking lot. Reportedly only a single golf cart is available at this site. Course is very steeply rolling and would not be possible for disabled individuals to play without a cart. Interior restrooms in starter house predominantly accessible, with limited issues (e.g., soap and toilet paper dispenser too high).

Transition Plan

Address ADA issues with restrooms. Consider moving more golf carts to site to promote better accessibility. Clear debris and smooth out surfaces of trails and parking access areas.



Stoneham Oaks starter house. Note Accessible parking and at-grade entrance.

Stoneham Ice Arena – Unicorn South

Indoor ice arena with entrance doors on upper (top of seating) and lower (main entrance at ice-level). Accessible parking spaces (total of 6) at both upper and lower entrances. ADA access at both levels, but only restroom facilities are at lower level, necessitating going outside to transition from upper to lower levels for any disabled individuals on upper level wanting to use restrooms. Restrooms predominantly Accessible, with some issues (e.g., only one grab bar in Accessible stall, existing bar not parallel to floor). Water fountain meets ADA specifications. Locker rooms not improved since 1970's and not Accessible. Manager would like to establish Accessible seating area at Southwest corner of rink by establishing slightly raised platform to improve view over the rink boards; area would be very convenient to restrooms and entrance.

Transition Plan

Improve Accessible viewing area at lower level. Address minor changes to make restrooms Accessible.



Accessible parking and ramp at Ice Arena



Ice Arena showing lower level with restrooms

A word or two about other non-permanently preserved facilities

Some of the best ADA-compliant Accessible facilities are at other locations in town that are not permanently protected. The Robin Hood School and the Colonial Park School both provide Accessible playgrounds (although the Colonial School is newer and the Robin Hood School facility is in need of repair). The park facilities at the East School (where the school has been converted to condos but the fields and playground remain under the control of the school department) include ball fields and a playground with a swing specifically designed for Accessibility. The Steele playground (on the same parcel as town hall) includes an ADA-compliant shelter with Accessible picnic tables, but does lack hard-surfaced pathways for access. The town common, established in 2001, includes Accessible parking and walkways, and a gazebo with a ramp. It is therefore recommended that if the town determines to sell any of these lands in the future, they consider keeping the recreational facilities for town resident uses (as was done at the East School).



Accessible playground at Colonial Park School



Accessible swing at East School playground



Steele Playground, on Town Hall parcel, showing Accessible picnic shelter but without access trail.

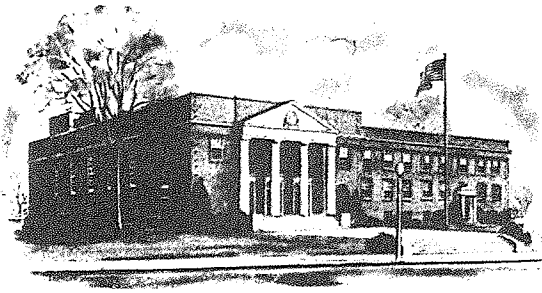


Accessible paths and gazebo on Town Common parcel

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

www.stoneham-ma.gov

OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
35 CENTRAL STREET
STONEHAM, MA 02180-2087
TEL: 781-279-2600
FAX: 781-279-2602
tyounger@stoneham-ma.gov



THOMAS G. YOUNGER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

ADA Coordinator Designation Form

ADA Coordinator Name: Thomas Younger

Name of City/Town Department that ADA Coordinator Works: Stoneham, MA

Job Title: Town Administrator

E-Mail: TYounger@stoneham-ma.gov

Phone: 978-279-2600

Address: 35 Central Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Date Appointed: January 1, 2017

Is This Appointment: Permanent OR Acting : Acting

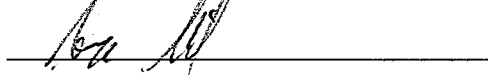
Does this ADA Coordinator report directly to the appointing authority? Yes

Are the ADA Coordinator Duties Full-Time OR Part-Time ? Full-time

Direct Supervisor (Name and Title): George Seibold, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen

Appointing Authority Signature:

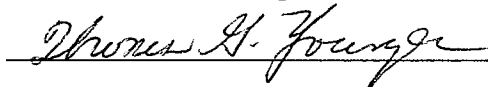
Date:



12-27-17

ADA Coordinator Signature:

Date:



12/27/17

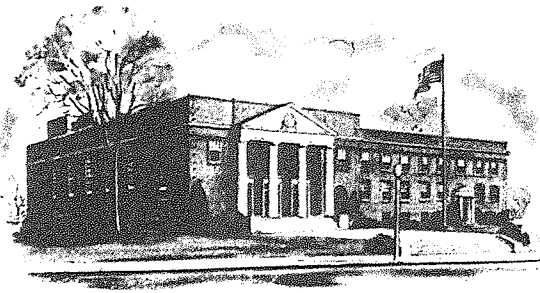
Please send copy of completed form to:

The Massachusetts Office on Disability
1 Ashburton Place, Room 1305
Boston, MA 02108-1618
mod-info@state.ma.us
Fax: (617) 727-0965

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

www.stoneham-ma.gov

OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
35 CENTRAL STREET
STONEHAM, MA 02180-2087
TEL: 781-279-2600
FAX: 781-279-2602
tyounger@stoneham-ma.gov



THOMAS G. YOUNGER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

**Town of Stoneham
Grievance Procedure under
The Americans with Disabilities Act**

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Stoneham. The Town of Stoneham's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

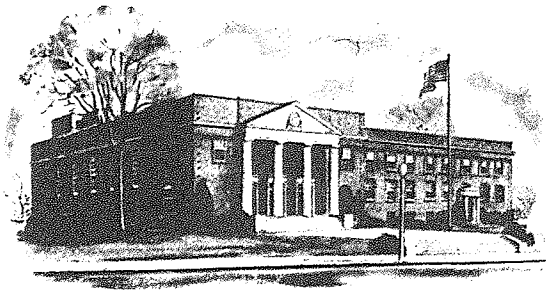
**Thomas Younger, Town Administrator
ADA Coordinator & Town Administrator
35 Central Street, Stoneham, MA 02180**

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Thomas Younger or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Thomas Younger or his designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Stoneham and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Thomas Younger or his designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Board of Selectmen Chairperson or his designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Selectmen Chairperson or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the the Board of Selectmen Chairperson or his designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Thomas Younger or his designee, appeals to the Board of Selectmen Chairperson or his designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town of Stoneham for at least three years.



THOMAS G. YOUNGER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

www.stoneham-ma.gov

OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
35 CENTRAL STREET
STONEHAM, MA 02180-2087
TEL: 781-279-2600
FAX: 781-279-2602
tyounger@stoneham-ma.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Town of Stoneham will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Town of Stoneham does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Town of Stoneham will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Town of Stoneham programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

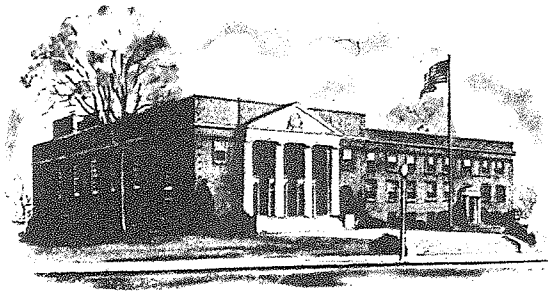
Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Town of Stoneham will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Town of Stoneham offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of The Town of Stoneham should contact the office of Thomas Younger, 35 Central Street, Stoneham, MA 02180 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Town of Stoneham to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Town of Stoneham is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Thomas Younger, 35 Central Street, Stoneham, MA 02180, at TYounger@stoneham-ma.gov.

The Town of Stoneham will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



THOMAS G. YOUNGER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

www.stoneham-ma.gov

OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
35 CENTRAL STREET
STONEHAM, MA 02180-2087
TEL: 781-279-2600
FAX: 781-279-2602
tyounger@stoneham-ma.gov

Notice

ADA Compliance

The Town of Stoneham does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. The Town of Stoneham does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the Town of Stoneham's designated ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Name: Thomas Younger

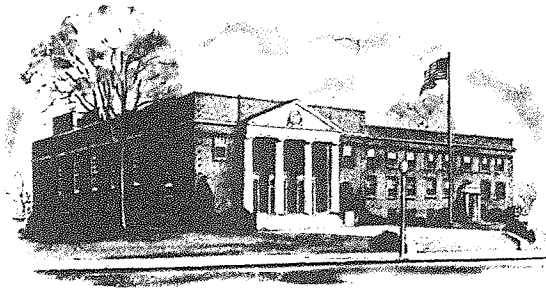
Title: Town Administrator

Address: Town of Stoneham
Town Hall
35 Central Street
Stoneham, MA 02180

Phone: (781) 279-2600

Days/ Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Stoneham are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.



THOMAS G. YOUNGER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

www.stoneham-ma.gov

OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
35 CENTRAL STREET
STONEHAM, MA 02180-2087
TEL: 781-279-2600
FAX: 781-279-2602
tyounger@stoneham-ma.gov

MEMO

TO: Whom It May Concern

DATE: October 31, 2017

FROM: Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator

SUBJECT: ADA Compliance

This is to confirm that I am the ADA Compliance Officer for the Town of Stoneham. I am also confirming that the hiring and employment practices of the Town of Stoneham are in compliance with the ADA laws and regulations.

The Human Resources Department maintains an up-to-date record of ADA regulations and monitors compliance.

Appendix C

Public Participation

Input received via OSRP Survey, spring 2017

Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2017

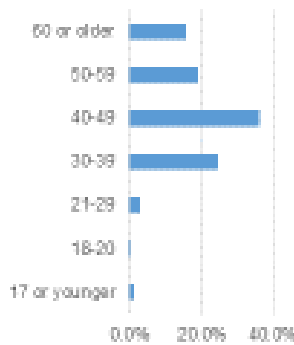


Draft analysis 5-22-17

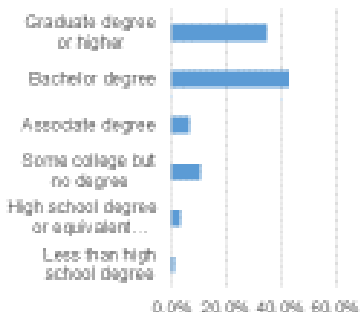
Respondent Profile

749 respondents as of May 17, 2017

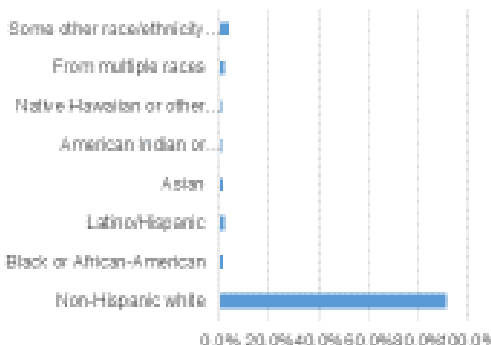
Age of Respondents



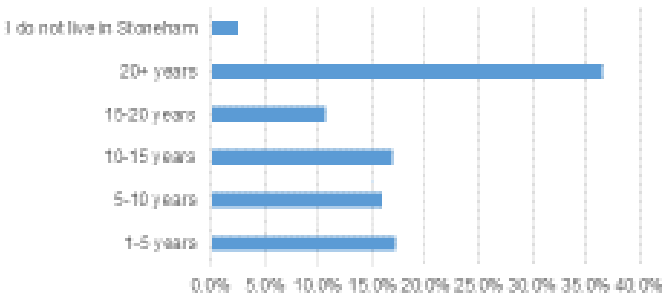
Educational Attainment of Respondents



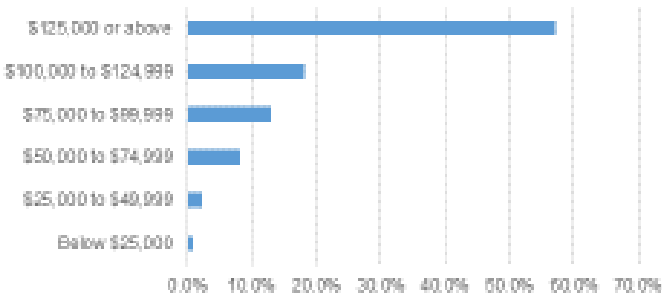
Race/Ethnicity of Respondents



Stoneham Residency of Respondents



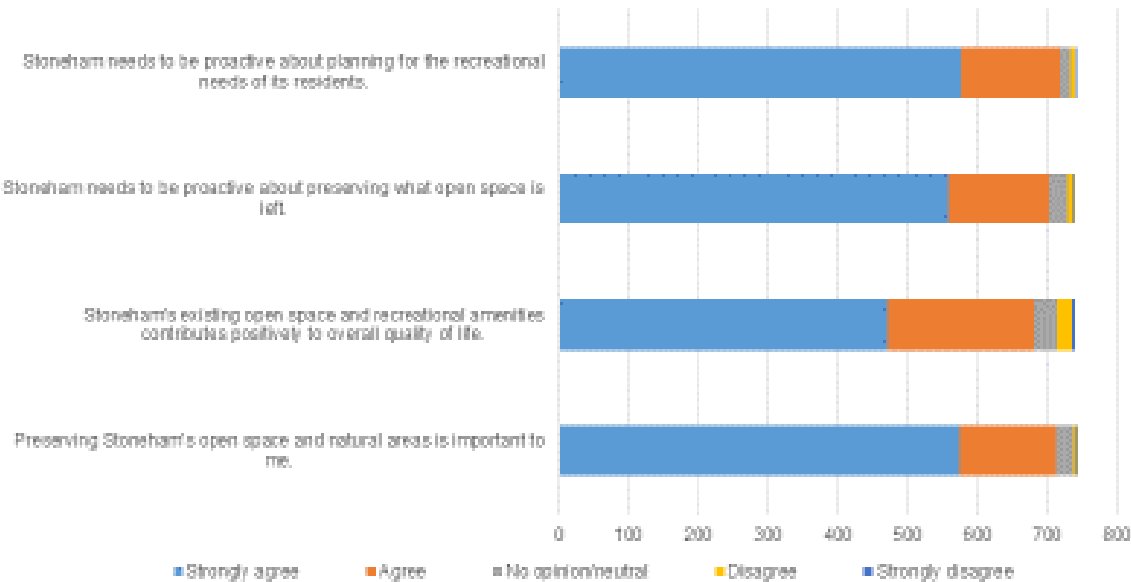
Annual Household Income of Respondents



Community Values

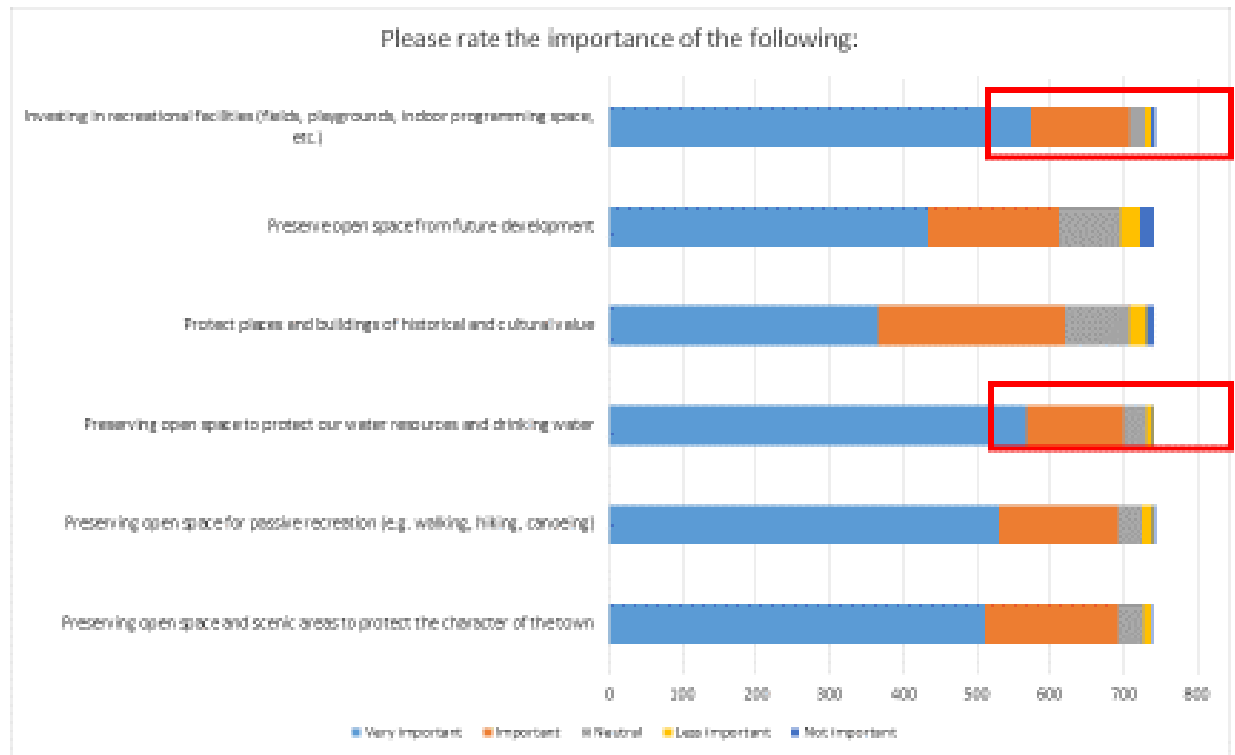
Investing in existing amenities and preserving what open is left are most important to residents. This theme resonates throughout the survey results.

Do you Agree or Disagree with the following statements



Community Values

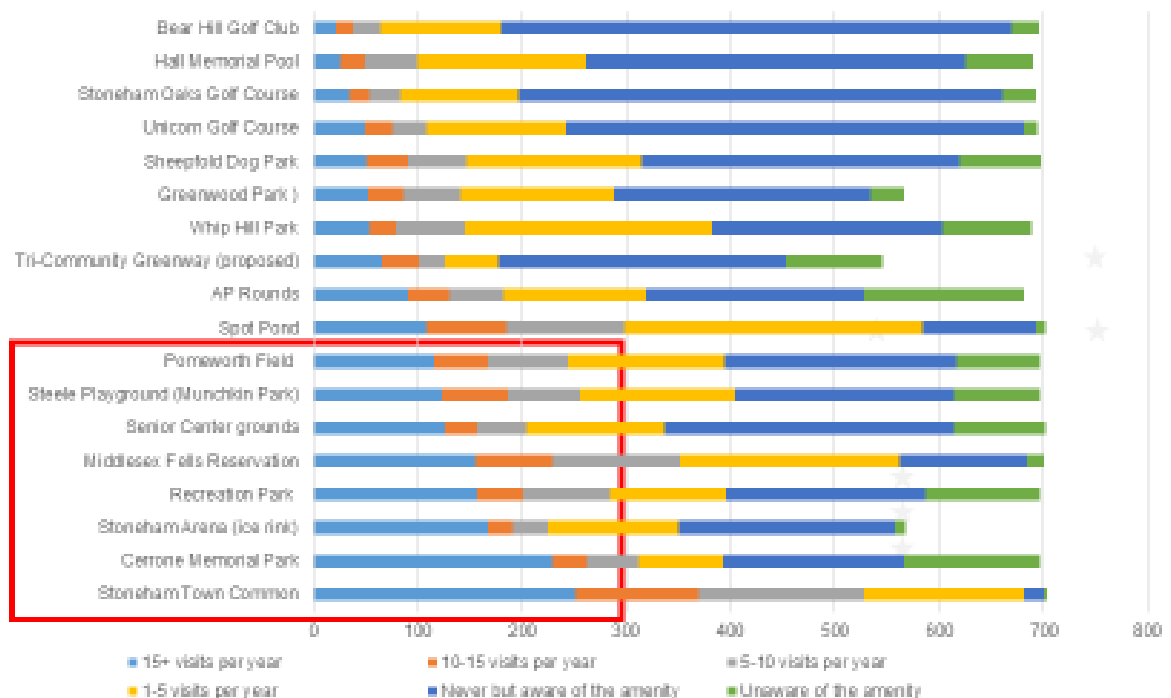
Investing in existing amenities and preserving what open is left are most important to residents. This theme resonates throughout the survey results.



Awareness and Usage

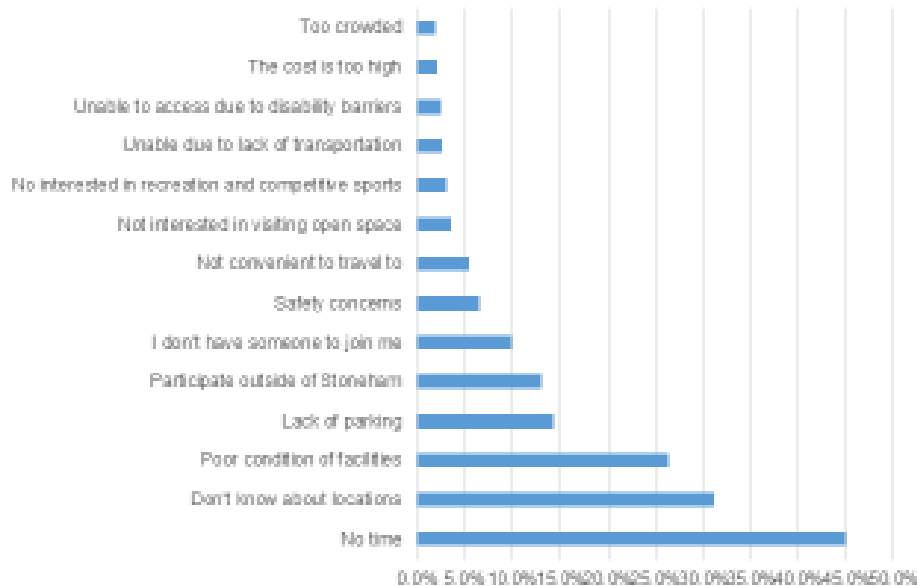
The Common, Fields and playgrounds get the most usage. AP Rounds recently renovated but many residents unaware of the amenity. Greenway not yet built but well known in the community. Golf courses well known but rarely used.

How often do you visit or use the following for passive/active recreation?



Awareness and Usage

What prevents you from utilizing Stoneham's open space and recreation amenities?



Recurring comments under "other":

- Kids have grown up
- Need for programs for all ages
- Do not golf
- Dogs not welcome/too many dogs
- Lack of maintenance
- Lack of awareness of facilities
- Need for ADA compliant facilities

Consider diversification of program offerings to broaden participation of residents of all life stages and abilities.

Needs and Demand: Activities

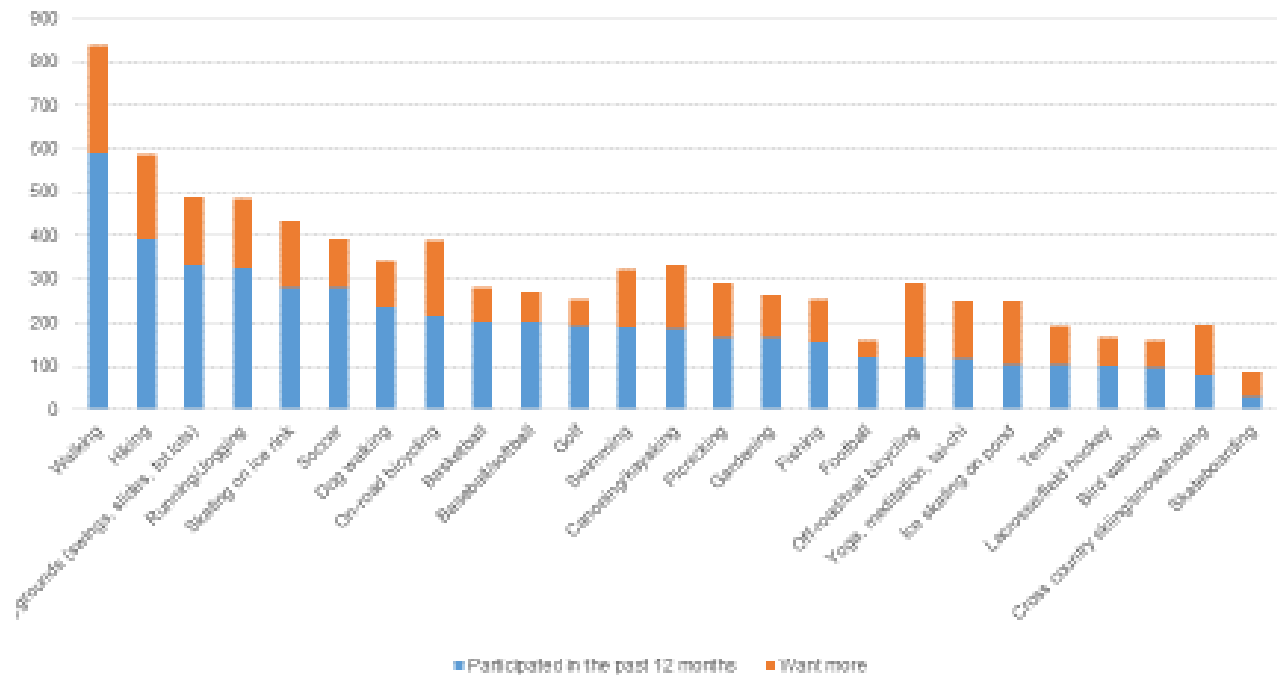
Does current availability and accessibility of facilities and programs meet current demand?

Activity	Participated in the past 12 months	Want more
Walking	590	248
Hiking	394	191
Playgrounds (swings, slides, tot lots)	331	158
Running/Jogging	326	160
Skating on ice rink	290	155
Soccer	279	114
Dog walking	238	107
On-road bicycling	217	173
Basketball	204	76
Baseball/softball	201	69
Golf	191	64
Swimming	189	131
Canoeing/kayaking	185	148
Picnicking	166	124
Gardening	166	96
Fishing	156	98
Football	122	38
Off-road/trail bicycling	121	170
Yoga, meditation, tai-chi	119	132
Ice skating on pond	105	145
Tennis	104	89
Lacrosse/field hockey	100	66
Bird watching	96	62
Cross country skiing/snowshoeing	79	117
Skateboarding	30	57

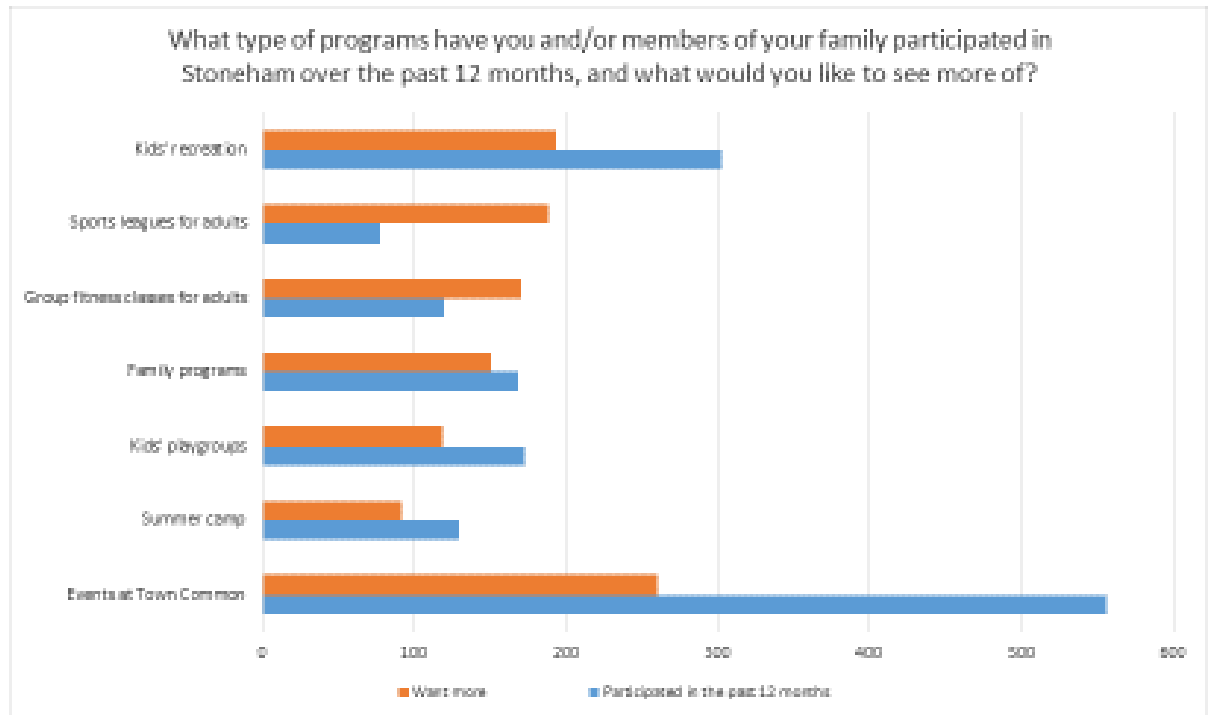
Needs and Demand: Activities

Does current availability and accessibility of facilities and programs meet current demand?

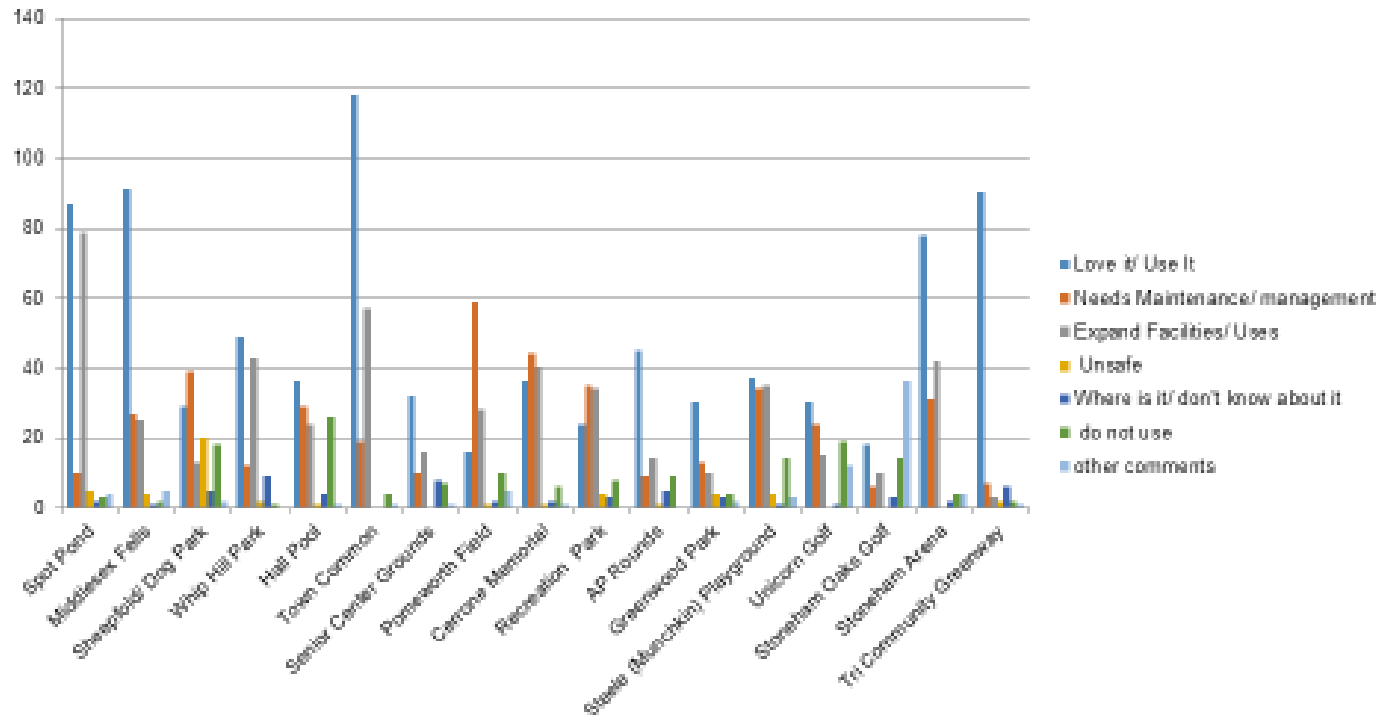
What activities have you and/or members of your family participated in Stoneham over the past 12 months, and what would you like to see more of?



Needs and Demand: Programs



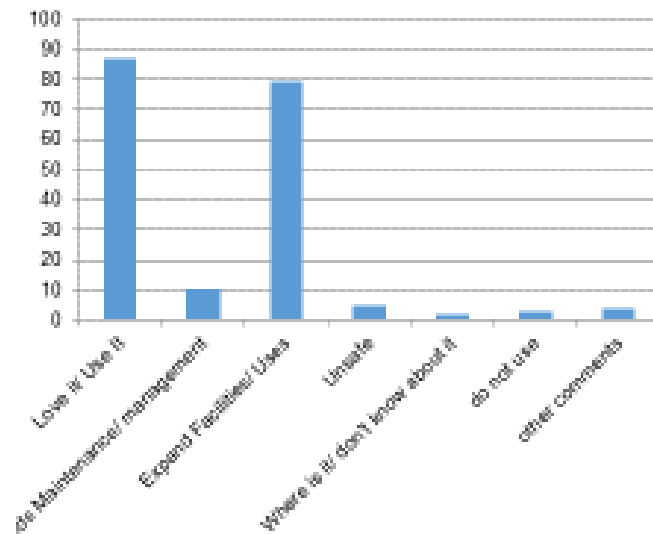
Facility conditions



- A Total of 749 Surveys were completed; not all respondents completed the open response questions.
- The greatest number of total responses was for Town Common (187), Spot Pond (176), Middlesex Fells (147), and Stoneham Arena (142).
- The parks that received the highest "Love it; Use it" category included the Town Common, Middlesex Fells, Spot Pond, Tri-Community Greenway (largely aspirational), and Stoneham Arena.

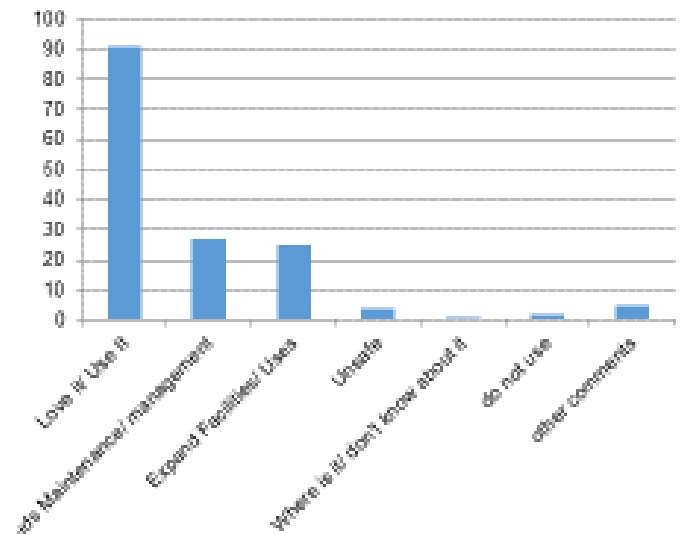
Facility conditions

Spot Pond



Spot Pond very popular. Many respondents would like to see more an expansion of facilities and uses, including private boats, swimming, and a circumferential trail.

Middlesex Fells

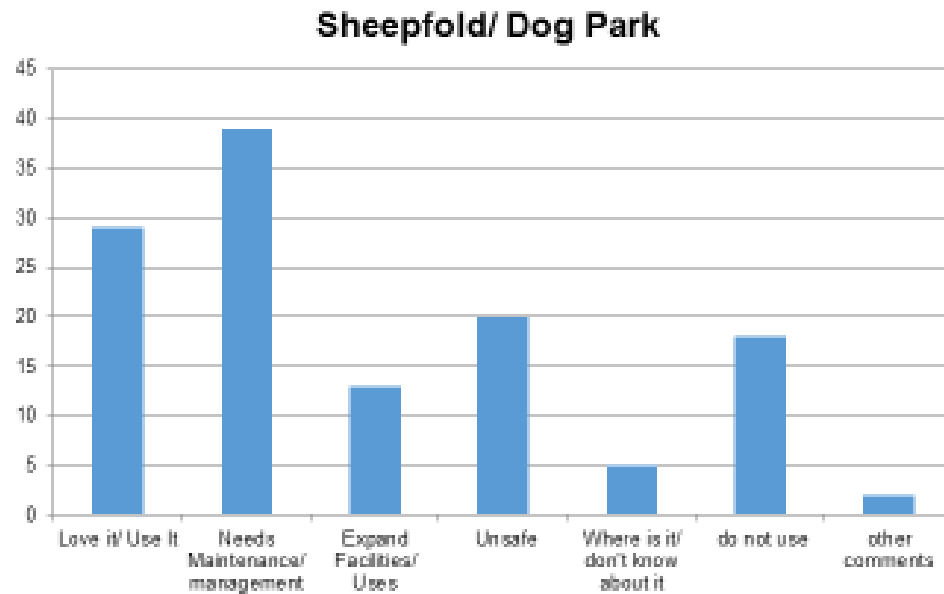


Middlesex Fells very popular.

Mixed feelings about dogs - some want more off-leash while others want more controls on dogs.

Many want additional parking and better maps/trails markings

Facility conditions



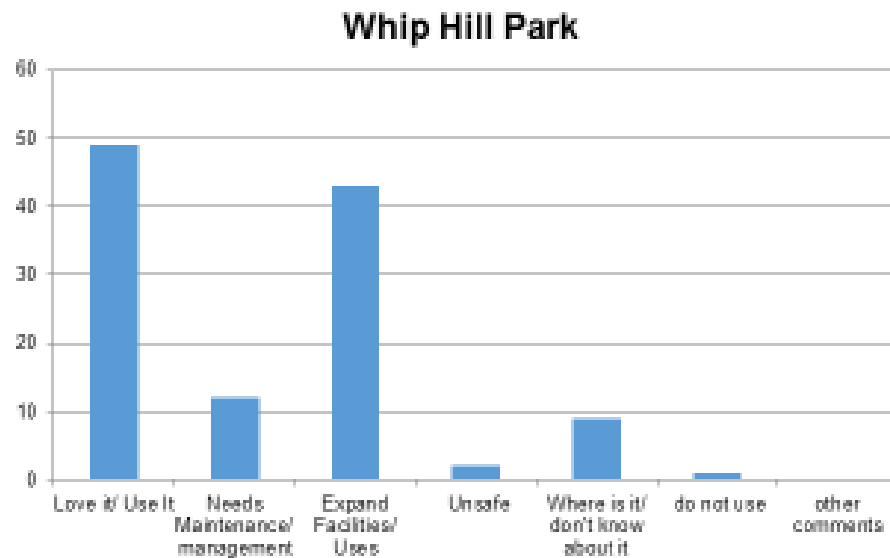
Very popular with dog owners

Many concerned about inadequate management of dogs

More feel unsafe here than at other parks in town

Some noted lack of parking and/or concerns over paying for parking

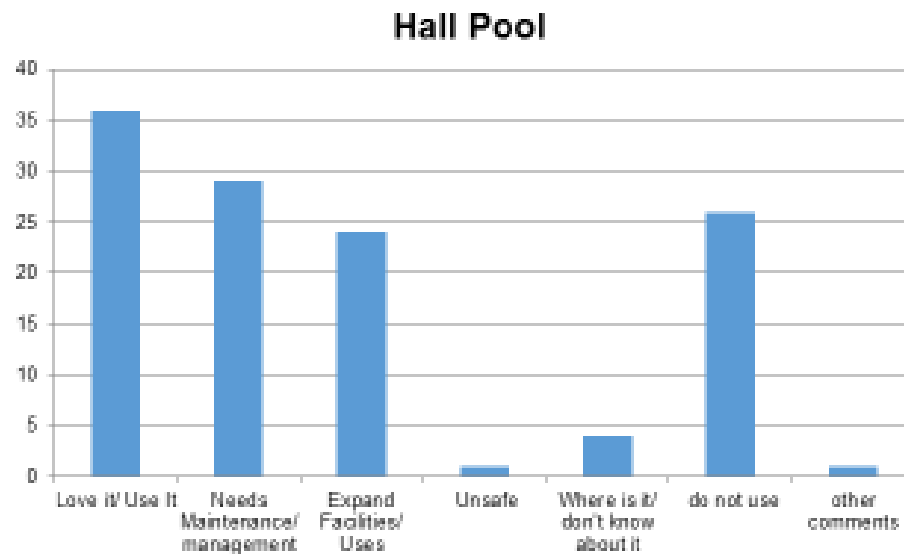
Facility conditions



Many cited this as a nice area to walk

Most felt this was under-utilized (and cited mostly Christmas program with Santa) and would support additional programs

Facility conditions

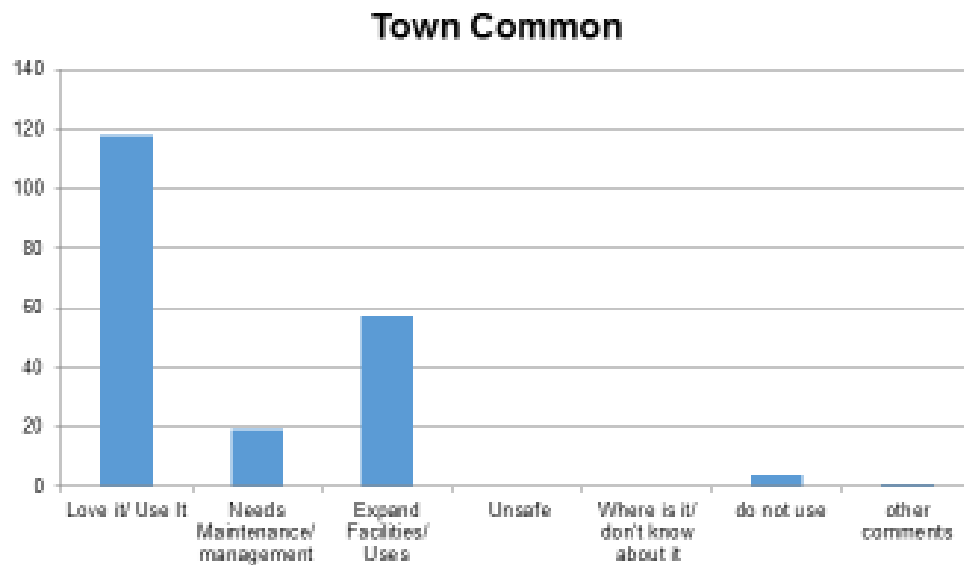


Many noted management had improved under Boys and Girls Club

Many others noted management still lacking.

Costs, short hours and short season were noted as concerns

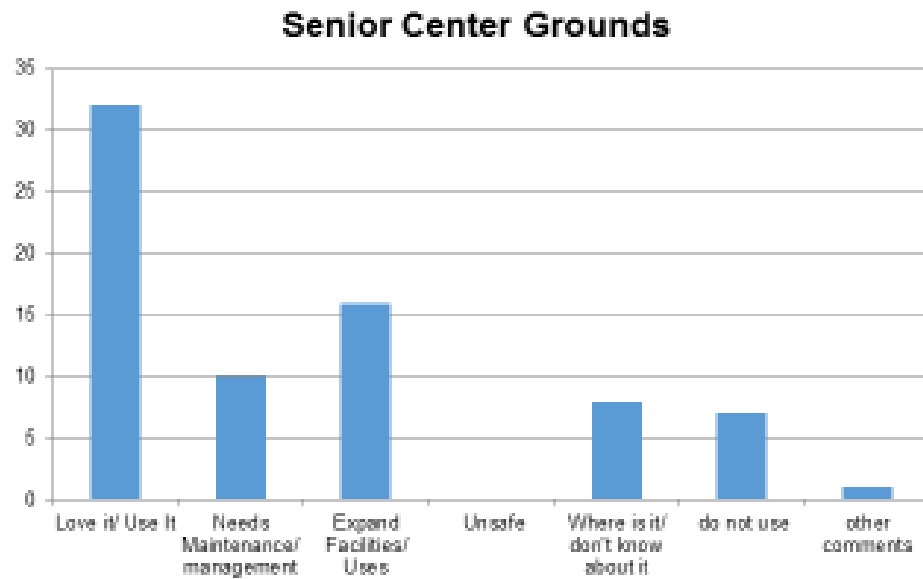
Facility conditions



Received highest number of "Love it; Use it" responses

Most were positive towards past events and uses, and wanted more

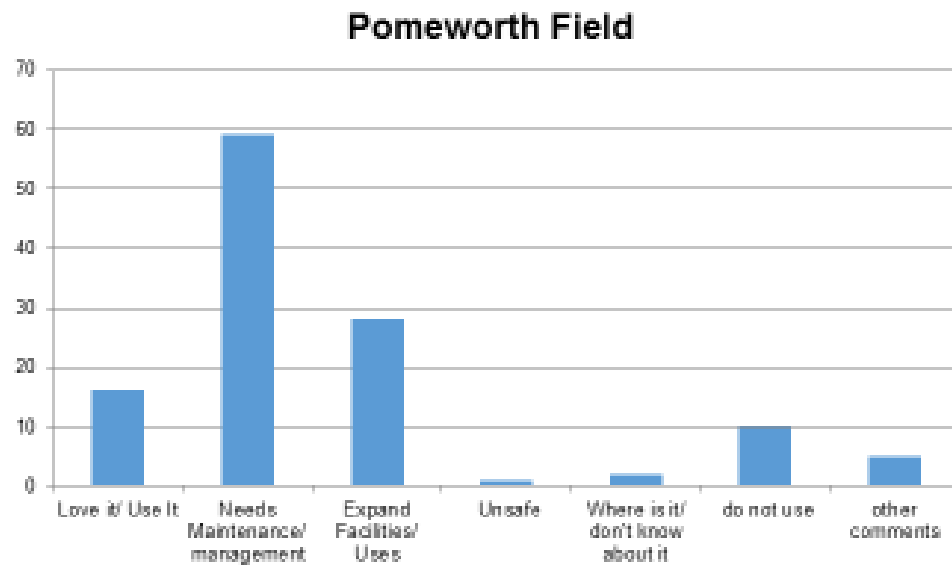
Facility conditions



Respondents cited the use by Seniors, the broader use of the barn, and the use of parking for adjacent Soccer

Some cited the desire for additional non-senior uses, including a dog park and archery range

Facility conditions

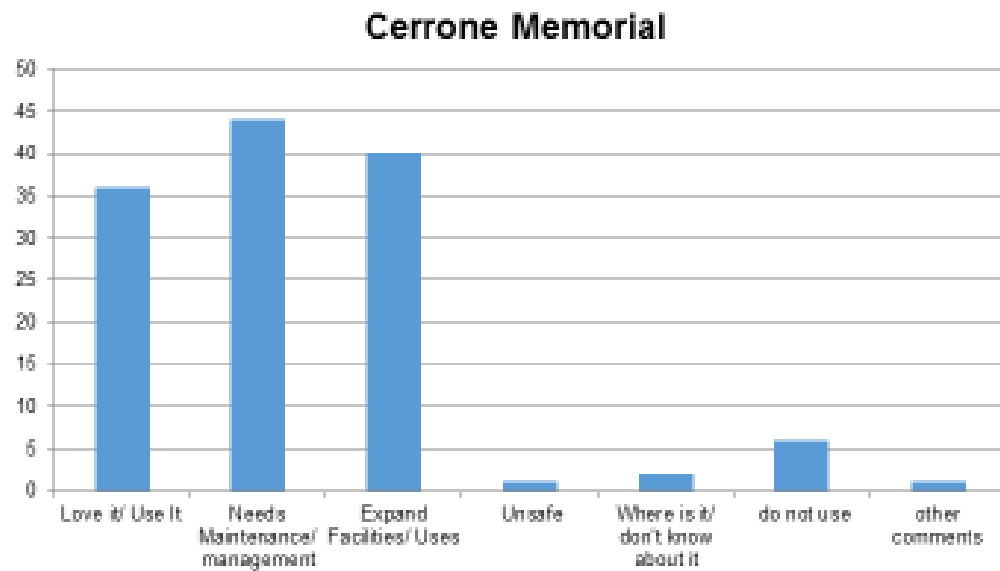


Most common use cited was for little league play

Many commented on poor conditions of the fields and lack of maintenance

Need for bathroom facilities, improved playground equipment, and overall rehab of facilities

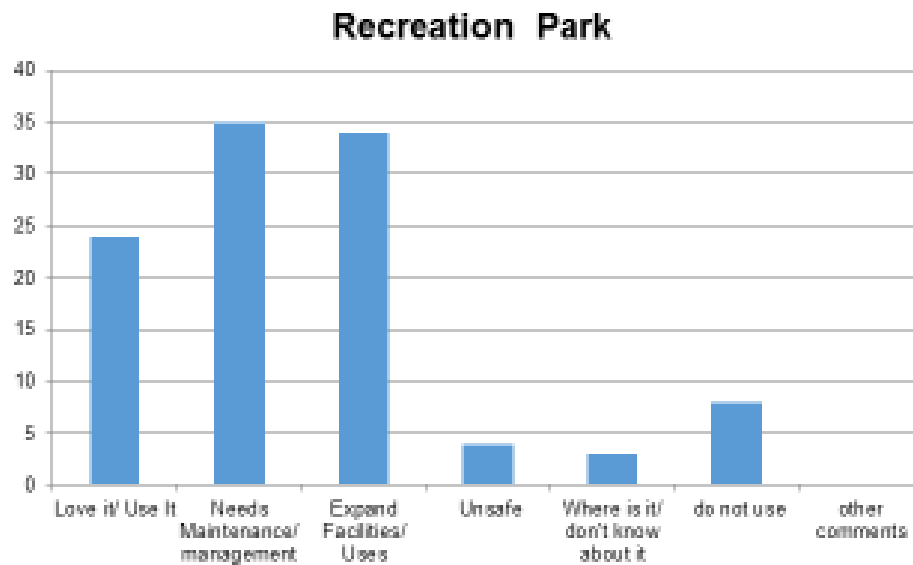
Facility conditions



Many noted excellent resource for soccer, but some wanted additional non-soccer uses as well

Need for better field conditions, lighting, snack bar, parking were cited

Facility conditions

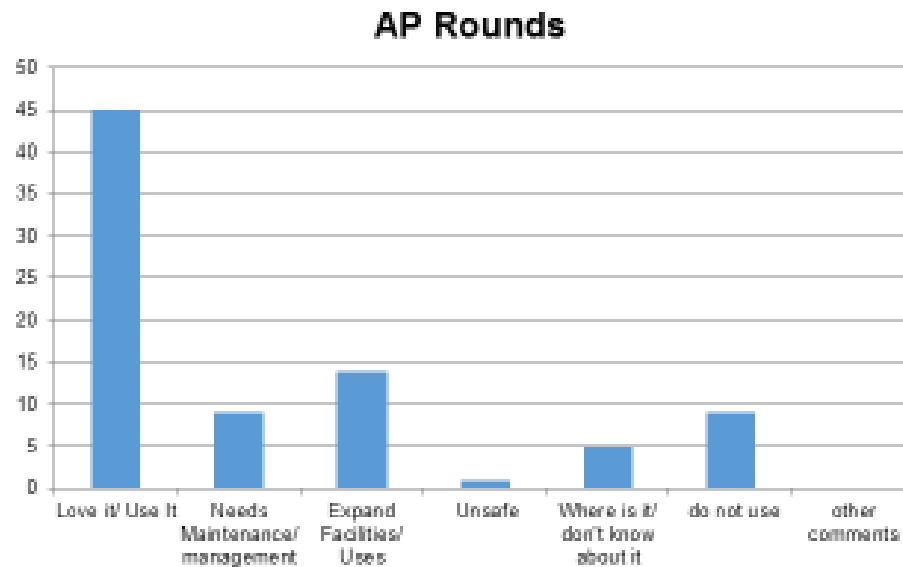


The diversity of sports using these fields was noted.

Many respondents commented on their concerns regarding maintenance and upkeep of their facilities

Repairs/expansions cited included the need for new seating, repairs to fieldhouse, improvements to playground

Facility conditions

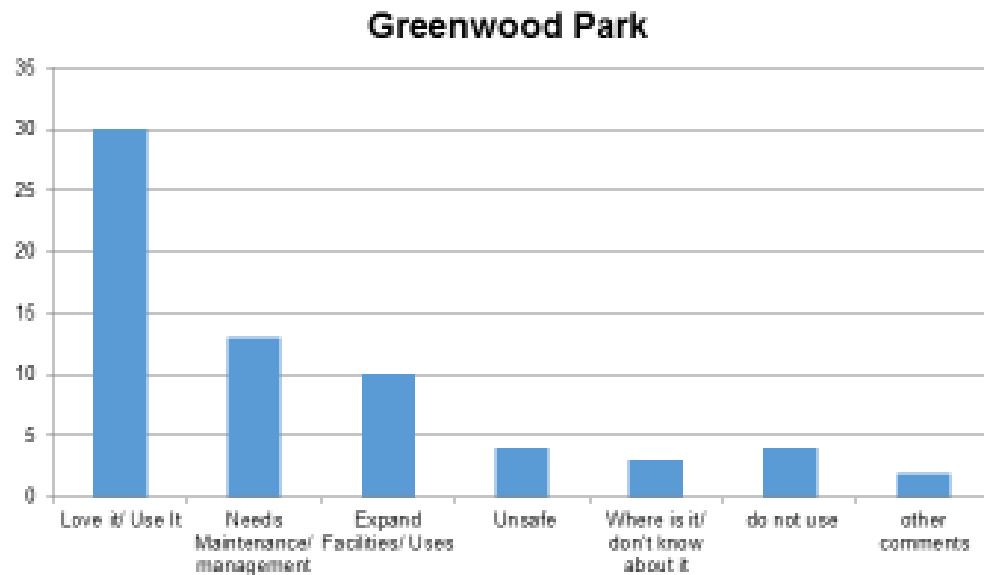


Fewer overall respondents for this neighborhood park

Many noted the recent improvements

Need for parking and ongoing maintenance were noted

Facility conditions

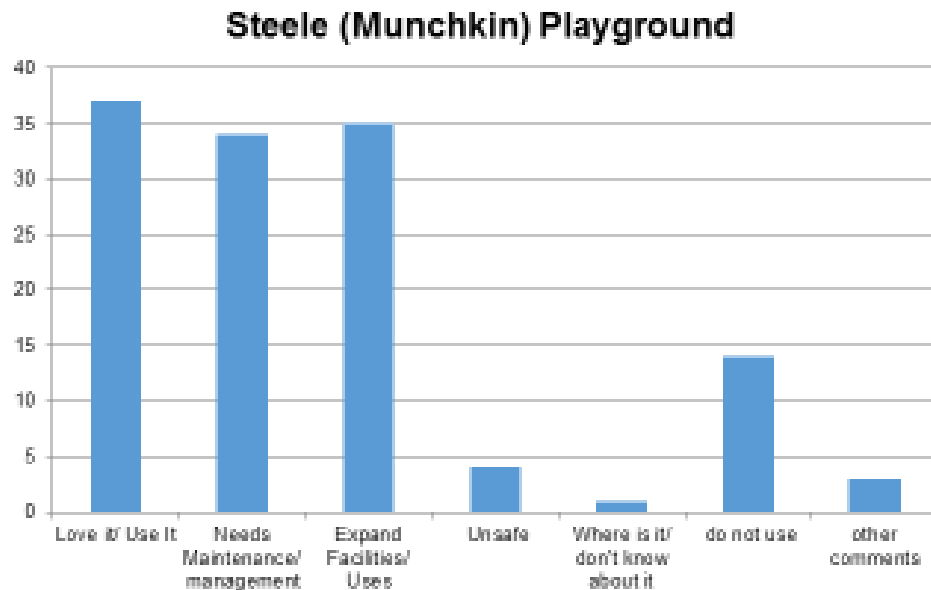


Lowest overall number of respondents, but well liked many of those that did respond

Many cited use of this field by Melrose residents

Needs for management of parking and fields were cited

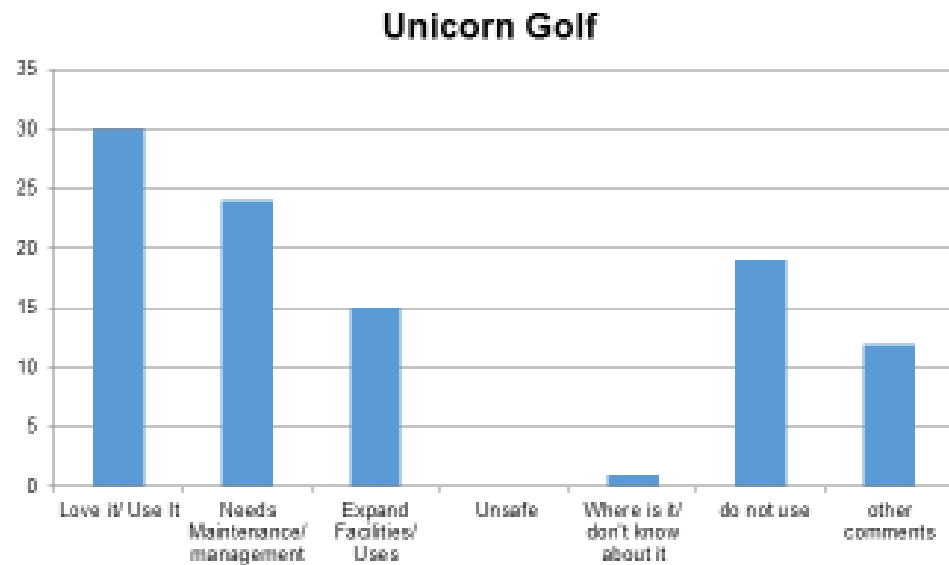
Facility conditions



Well-liked playground

Many cited need for better maintenance and upgrade of playground equipment

Facility conditions

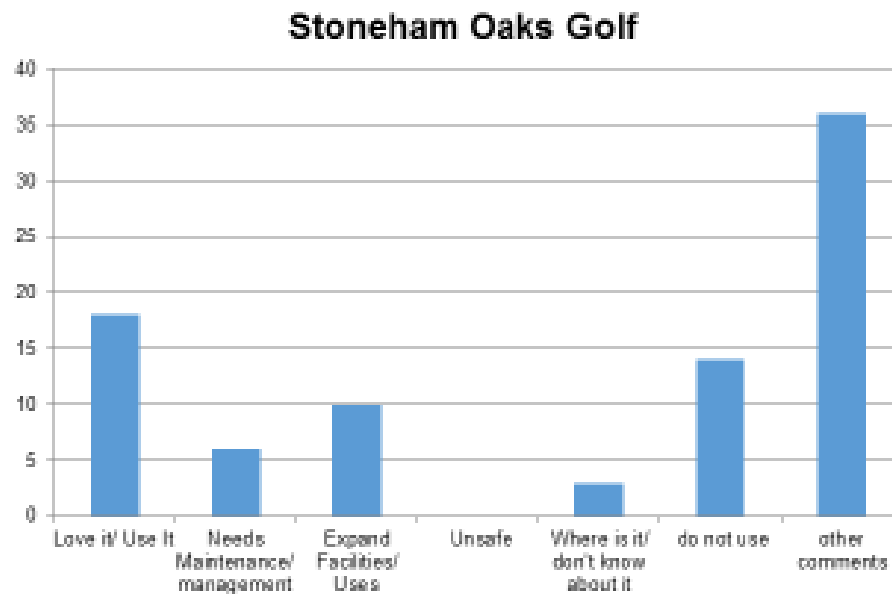


Popular golf course among players, but many cited that they did not play

Many comments related to not needing 2 golf courses

Management was also cited as an issue

Facility conditions

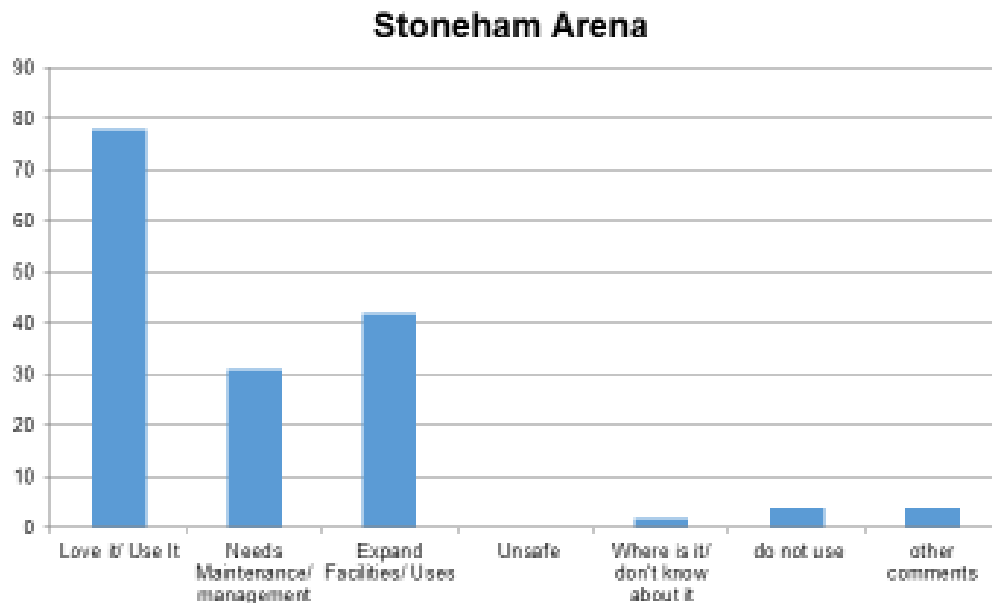


Less popular than Unicorn among respondents

Many more cited the need for only one course

Many suggestions for alternative uses for site, including rink expansion, driving range, trade for Weiss Farm

Facility conditions

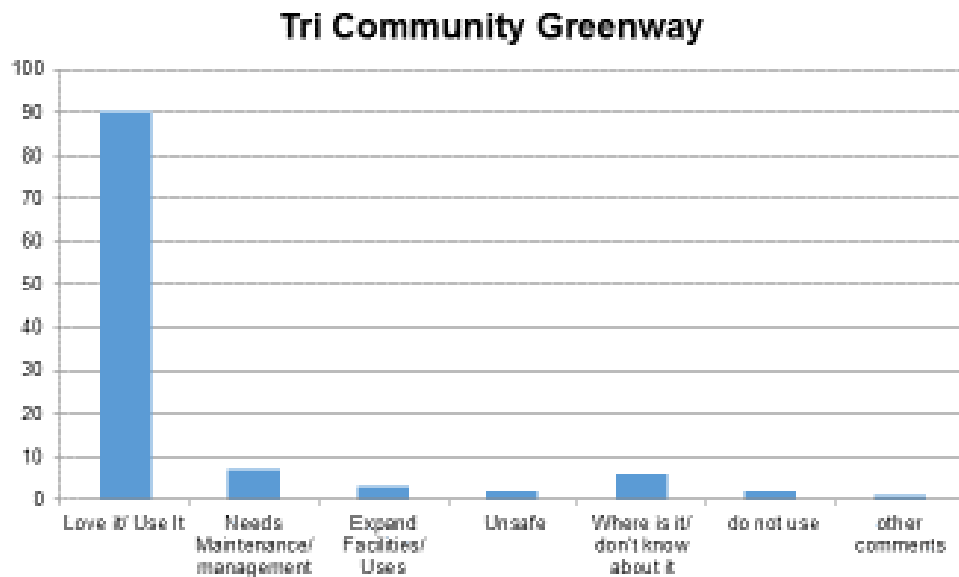


Many respondents liked the rink, but also cited needs for improvements and maintenance

Many supported concept of second rink

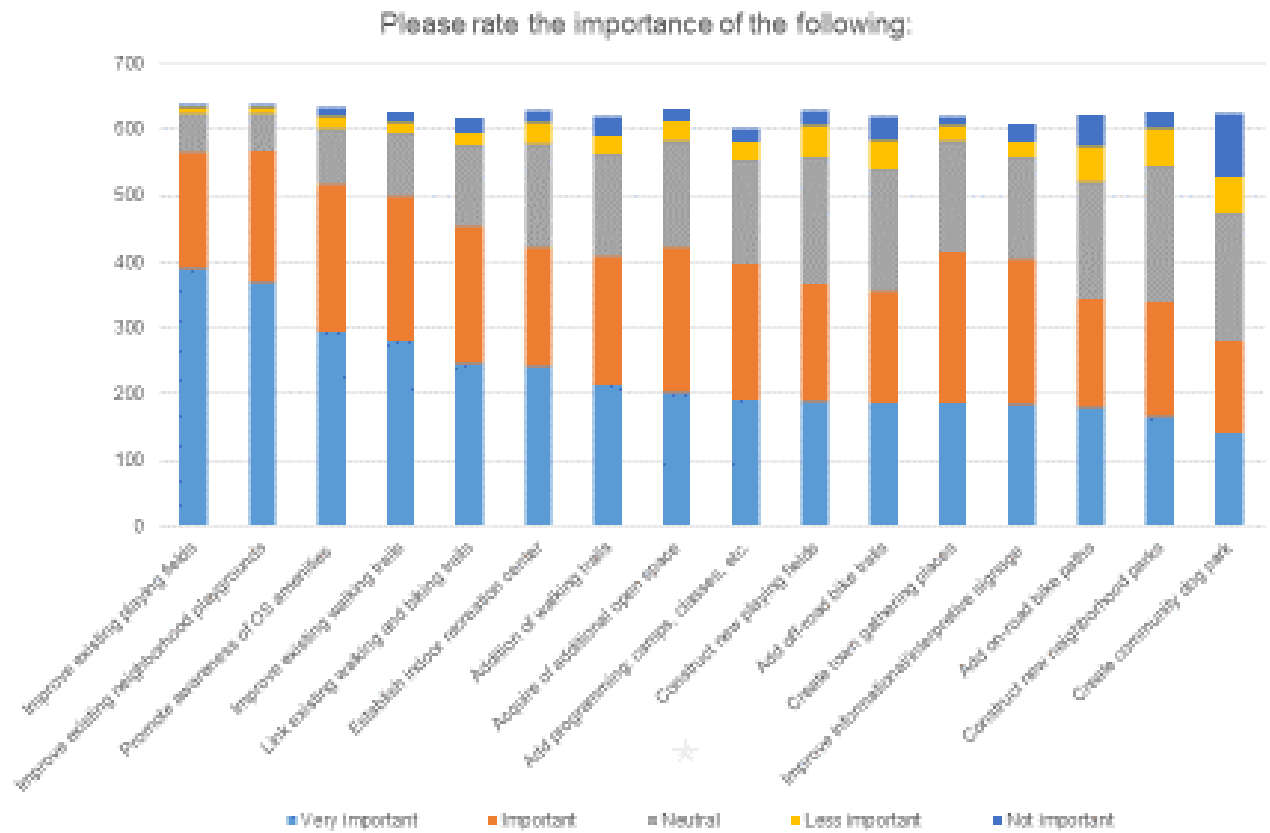
Some concerned regarding lack of public ice time at convenient times, and the need to have non-town uses

Facility conditions



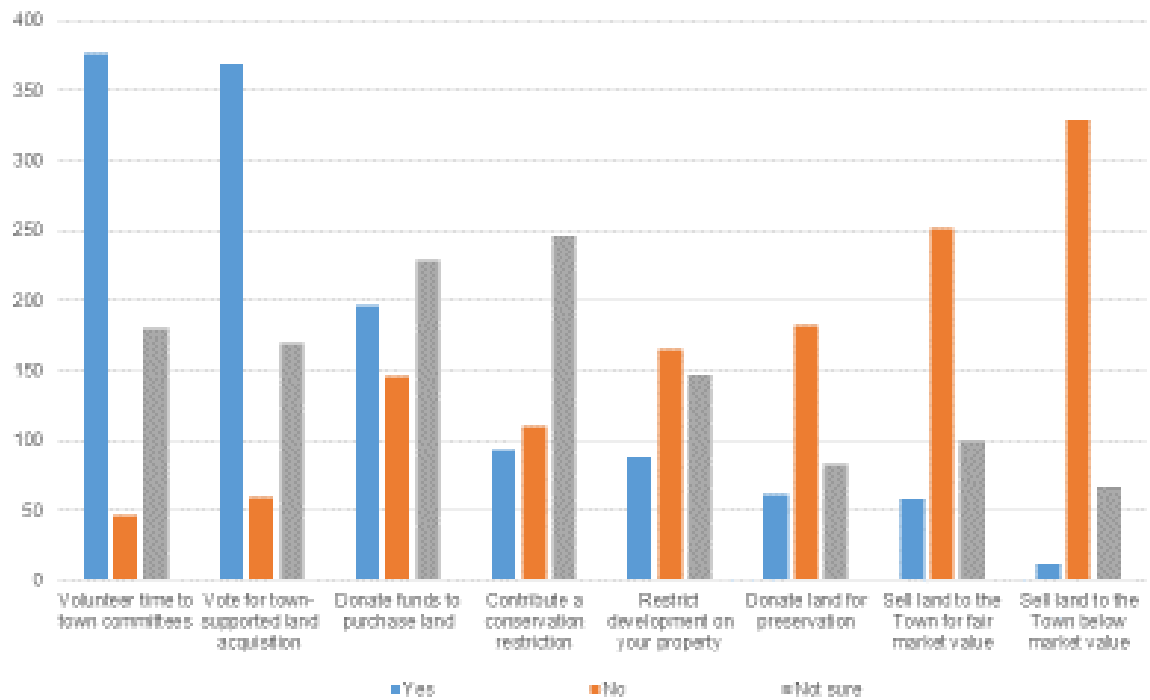
Very popular facility- support was largely aspirational with many looking forward to it being completed, and less using currently

Priorities



Priorities

To preserve open space in Stoneham, would you personally:
(N/A answers omitted)



Priorities

Are there any parcels of land you think the town should investigate purchasing or permanently protecting for new conservation or recreation land?

- Weiss Farm (57)
- None (19)
- New Rink/Expand Arena (12)
- Land north of Cerrone (9)
- Near Greenway/Bike Path (4)
- For Sports Facilities (4)
- At Medical Center/Spot Pond (4)
- In front of Middle School (4)
- And 29 other locations proposed once or twice

Input received at Public Forum 3-28-17

Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities as discussed by Forum Participants

As part of the initial public forum, there were a number of ways for participants to express their priorities for the Plan. Part of this included a discussion of the Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities for the town in relation to Open Space and Recreation resources. An initial brainstorming session was held during which participants were asked for their ideas; this was followed by an opportunity to rank their most important Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities. The ranked listing is below:

Number of priority dots placed on each item is shown in *blue italic font*. Each participant was given 4 dots.

Strengths

Whip Hill *6*
Lots of open space – a real asset *5*
Greenway *5*
Three Golf Courses (Noted Unicorn and also Par 3) *5*
Town Common *5*
Fells is an awesome place but underutilized by Stoneham residents *1*
DCR Pool *2*
Trails – variety and connectivity *1*
Stone Zoo *0*
Rounds Playground – neighborhood project *0*

Weaknesses

Lack of comprehensive Maintenance Plan for All parks and playgrounds *12*
Lack of coordination between Stoneham & DCR & State *4*
People not being aware of our spaces *3*
Parks and playgrounds that we do have need a lot of work *2*
Signage *2*
Current state of Par 3 golf course (layout makes it difficult to improve) *2*
DCR lands – lack of control in decisions (includes the pool) *1*
Perception of Spot Pond being off-limits *1*
Volunteers – to staff/help Friends groups *1*
Colonial Park – visibility challenges *0*

Opportunities

Spot Pond Walkway *13*
Fields need more maintenance in order to be more usable *7*
Re- Establish Earth Day programs to bring volunteers to assist in management *6*
Dog Parks - small \$\$ investment yield big reward *4*
Pocket Parks – passive recreation *4*

Regional Groups/ Organizations that the town can work with 3
 Putting money into existing playgrounds 3
 Take more advantage of the Fells 3
 Take advantage of Fells – get school children out into the parks 2
 Undertake inventory of town-owned property 2
 Signage 1
 Swimming area at Spot Pond 0
 More people come in from out of town 0
 Working relationship with DCR 0
 Par 3 golf course investment – potential 0
 Improve communication with Friends of Fells 0
 Continue to work to get better management of DCR Pool – Boys and Girls Club better 0
 Community Gardens 0
 Route 28 island investments 0
 Opportunities for parks - Central Middle school land in front and land adjacent to Senior center 0

Initial Discussion of 2017 Goals and Actions by Forum Participants

Another portion of the Public Forum focused on the Goals and Actions as outlined in the 1996 OSRP, as amended by the results (to date) of the 2017 OSRP Survey. The Goals and Actions were discussed, and ideas were solicited for additions to these Actions. After this discussion, participants were provided with the opportunity to rank their Goals (each participant was given 1 dot to indicate the goals they felt was most important) and the Actions (each participant was provided with 7 dots to indicate their top 7 actions). The results of this activity are as follows:

Ranking of Goals:

Goal #4: Encourage Public Involvement in Conservation Land 13

Goal #3: Provide a Wide Range of Recreational Opportunities 9

Goal #2: Preservation of Open Space and Scenic Areas 8

Goal #1: Protection of Water resources 3

Ranking of Objectives:

Establish town fund for purchase of open space or recreation areas, including possible adoption of Community Preservation Act or designation of other town funds. 18Provide more events at high profile open spaces, such as events at the town common. 17

Upgrade and improve maintenance on existing recreational areas. Improvement of existing playing fields. 16

Improve public awareness of the Town's lesser known open space and recreation facilities, such as the Whip Hill area. 13

Encourage the DCR/MWRA to expand recreational/educational uses, and the maintenance and safety thereof, in Middlesex Fells/Spot Pond area. 12

Encourage private developers to integrate open space within proposed developments. 12

Locate recreational facilities to create a geographic balance of recreational opportunities.

Improvement of neighborhood parks/playgrounds. 12

Provide signage and trail markers to access these areas. 12

Provide opportunities for residents and businesses to volunteer time or funding to support conservation or recreation programs (e.g. establish “Friends of Parks” groups). 11

Identify undeveloped lands having high value as open space or scenic areas. 11

Publicize the availability of conservation land for hiking, picnicking, and other appropriate uses. 11

Offer recreational programs for all age groups. 10

Protect watersheds used for municipal or regional water supply, including Crystal Lake and Spot Pond, while allowing appropriate recreational uses of watershed lands. 9

Develop trails to provide public access to public conservation areas. Improvement/maintenance of existing walking trails. 9

Identify and protect wetlands that have value in preserving water quality or in providing wildlife habitat. 9

Provide a path for roller/walking/skate boarding. Create linkages for existing walking and biking trails. 8

Seek outside sources of funding for development and substantial renovation of facilities. 6

Conduct educational programs to create interest in conservation resources. Promote awareness of Open Space through education and outreach. 5

Encourage donations of land suitable for open space use and seek outside sources of financial assistance to acquire title or easements on land. 5

Offer recreational programs appropriate for each season of the year. 5

Acquire title or easements on identified areas. 4

Coordinate water resource protection with adjacent communities and regional agencies including the DCR, MWRA, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. 4

Provide public access points for conservation land within the Town. 2

Provide public parking for areas adjacent to conservation areas. 2

Acquire land for new facilities, giving priority to land adjacent to existing facilities. 1

Additional items brought up by participants at 3-28-17 forum, to be added into Goals and Objectives for final plan. However, these were largely NOT prioritized by participants at the forum (So Committee will need to address).

Opportunities for Public Art in the parks (e.g., creative benches). 1

Use of land at other municipally owned buildings for other recreational uses (serve as Open Space)

Inclusion of Community Garden in open space uses

Issues of accessibility – ADA for facilities, bathrooms, etc.

Restriction of (some) conservation lands for wildlife habitats

Inclusion of more open space/greenspace in downtown – make improvements to Town Common (including irrigation for maintaining plantings, and adding more plantings to Town Common)

Creation of outdoor classroom/educational opportunities within town's open space – including proposed location at library in downtown

Additional input received at Initial Public Forum

An additional opportunity for public input at the initial forum was from the initial small group exercises around two of the draft maps. Participants were asked to provide updates to the open space maps, to express their ideas/concerns related to the parcels, and to provide ideas for what constituted Areas of Scenic Importance or Unique Landscapes. The results of the table exercises are contained in the notes below, which include map corrections, ideas about specific parcels, goals/concerns related to open space in general in Stoneham, and ideas for which areas constitute Scenic Areas/Unique Landscapes in town:

Forum Participants Comments on Map #7 from Table Exercises

Table G

- Robin Hood School – ¼ of field is wetland
- North School – Gone – now private
- Cerrone playground – needs major rehab
- Stoneham Oaks – Waste of money
- East of Stoneham Oaks – Old tree farm??
- Middle School – Space in front
- Pomeworth Field – rehab update!
- East of Lindenwood Cemetery – Sweetwater Brook
- Bike Path – 1) voted down at town meeting 2) Does not end in Recreation Park- starts to north of Park
- East School – Private – Cricklewood Ballpark and Kiddiepark
- Old town quarry - ???
- Boston Academy – Not town owned
- Spot Pond – Swimming, sailing, MWRA Storage Shed?
- Crystal Lake & Whipple Ave Cons Lands and Lake Ave Cons Land & Marion and Spring Cons Lands – develop walking trails in these areas & work with neighboring towns to have trails go into adjacent open space
- General:
 - Parks need updating
 - All parks should be protected by Article 97
 - Bikeway should be protected
 - Broken Window theory – fix it and they will come

Table F

- Conservation land at Marion and Spring – Unknown access – no one knows about this. Is there access?
- Colonial Park School – Playground too secluded and small
- Spot Pond area 1) need for signage (flora and fauna) – could be Eagle Scout project, 2) Walkway around Spot Pond, 3) Fishing
- General:

- Benches please (could be memorial benches to raise funds)
- Public bathrooms

Table E

- North School – This is now condos; not open space
- Senior Center – 1) Open for more hours and more programs 2) Open Bocci Court at senior center for use by public
- Crystal Lake watershed – provide access from streets
- Whip Hill Park – Provide access information, visitor hours
- Spot Pond – 1) provide better parking at spot pond for visitors 2) Better access and paths around Spot Pond 3) Walking path around entire Spot Pond 4) More rangers to patrol Spot Pond
- General
 - Provide more information on where these parks are located
 - History/ Origin of Parks
 - Bike lanes on streets like in Melrose and Medford

Table D

- Spot Pond Area: 1) more volunteer engagement (group consensus) 2) Make better use of top of the tank
- Improve accessibility in the Fells
- Stoneham town common – like Pop-Up Stoneham
- Old Burial ground – more frequent supervised access (just Halloween now)
- Recreation park – small bad playground – repair it
- General:
 - Fenced in Dog Park
 - Greater Boston Land Trust (wish)
 - Pocket Parks including acquisition of empty real estate

Table C

- Unicorn Golf Course – opportunity for cross country ski in winter
- Stoneham Oaks golf course – waste of space! – new use as community gardens?
- Stoneham Town Common – not enough handicapped parking
- Whip Hill Park – roadway is too narrow and not enough parking
- General
 - Spaces that can attract a younger demographic
 - Dedicated dog park space
 - General safety for runners and walkers
 - Creation of pocket parks on small unused spaces
 - Use of Stoneham Oaks as a redesigned open space/park/trails
 - Creation of more passive open space to meet changing demographics
 - Lack of comprehensive maintenance plan – who is responsible for what

- Lack of tot lots not on school grounds
- Condition of Unicorn

Table B

- Crystal Lake watershed – More promotion and cleanup
- Spot Pond Area – 1) Walking/ Bike trail or bike lane on west side and north side of pond 2) need trail improvements in Fells
- Whip Hill Park – More promotion and more parking needed, also signage
- General:
 - Maintain all parks and playgrounds by town
 - Most playgrounds need upgrade of equipment – we need handicapped accessible equipment for kids
 - Do not sell open space
 - Add signage and public art
 - Dredging small ponds

Table A

- Senior Center – Purchase land adjacent to west for open space
- Middle School – use land in front for open space
- Pomeworth Field – conditions
- Recreation Park – 1) conditions safe organized or free play 2) Bike Path stops at north end of park
- Area north of high school - Fields Park Walking Path



Forum Participants Comments on Map #5 from Table Exercises

Table G

- Town Center area – add name “Central Square National Historic District”
- West of Town center area – ad name “Nobility Hill National Historic District

- General
 - 3 octagon houses
 - Downtown walking tour oh historic buildings
 - Ten Footer Show House
 - 1852 Poor Farm – now the Senior Center

Table F

- No comments

Table E

- Historic Water Works – open this building for tours
- All other comments related to uses of space and were added under Map7 comments above

Table D

- Bear Hill Tower – needs repair but great space
- Crystal Lake Watershed – Public Access?
- Fells Reservoir – heart drawn on ponds (love it?)

Table C

- No comments

Table B

- Fells Reservoir area – Skyline views of Boston
- All other comments relate to parks management and have been added to Map 7 comments above

Table A

- Only comments related to Map 7 and have been recorded above



Input received at Town Day and OSRP Open House



Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan (DRAFT)

1. Improve all neighborhood playgrounds within the town over the next 10 years

- Undertake a 10-year capital improvement plan for all playgrounds to determine unsafe or outdated equipment to be replaced, as well as critical improvements to bring playgrounds into ADA compliance. In order to achieve geographic equity of improved facilities, school playgrounds should also be included in this plan.
- Set a schedule for making these improvements, ensuring geographic equity of improvements throughout the town.
- Establish opportunities for private/commercial donations to assist in upgrades to recreational facilities, perhaps in exchange for time-limited naming rights or advertising.

$$(77 \text{ dots}) + (11 \text{ dots}) = 88$$

2. Improve all town recreation facilities within the town over the next 10 years

- Undertake a Capital Improvement Plan for all recreation sites, including all outdoor facilities such as sports fields (Recreation Park, Pomeworth Field, Cerrone/Broadway Field) and golf courses as well as buildings such as Recreation Park field house, Ice Arena and Golf Course club houses.
- Evaluate options for financial payback; determine how user fees (e.g., golf greens fees, ice arena rental fees) may be used to pay for improvements to these facilities.
- As part of this plan, determine appropriate levels of staff and funding needed to maintain these capital investments and determine funding source for these efforts.
- Evaluate best options for continuing to work with non-profit organizations/sports clubs to maintain appropriate sports fields while also allowing use of the facilities by the general public.

$$(60 \text{ dots}) + (10 \text{ dots}) = 70$$

Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan (DRAFT)

3. Assign Conservation Commission or other committee to work with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on expanded use of Spot Pond and Middlesex Fells Reservation

- Promote circumferential trail around Spot Pond and connections through other DCR properties to other regional trail systems.
- Promote use of DCR property at South and Main Streets for public events, with the possibility of improvements to the site (gazebo or amphitheater) to enable expanded uses.
- Advertise use of the Sheep Fold area dog park to partially meet the needs of Stoneham dog owners.

$$(74 \text{ dots}) + (11 \text{ dots}) = 85$$

4. Implement the Tri-Community Greenway and Stoneham Complete Streets programs to facilitate walking, hiking and bicycling

Including, but not limited to, actions such as:

- Proceed with construction of Greenway paved facilities using MassDOT funding.
- Plan for additional associated facilities along Greenway (access parking etc.).
- Establish separate parallel Walking Trail where feasible, to lessen user conflicts between walkers, bikers, roller-bladers.
- Work with Woburn and Winchester to implement connections of planned Tri-community Greenway.

$$(106 \text{ dots}) + (10 \text{ dots}) = 116$$



Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan (DRAFT)

5. Acquisition of additional areas for recreational facilities or conservation area

- Preserve Weiss Farm through purchase or trade.
- Encourage private developers to incorporate open space into private developments, through zoning requirements or incentives.
- Establish dedicated funds for park acquisitions through Community Preservation Act (CPA), or other source.

$$(66 \text{ dots}) + (5 \text{ dots}) = 71$$

6. Develop a plan for the continuation and expansion of the breadth and frequency of events at the Common, as well as other locations such as Whip Hill Park

- Program additional events, including, but not limited to, Food events, Music, Town day, Winter skating rink.
- Make improvements to key conservation facilities, such as Whip Hill Park, to make them more accessible and usable.

$$(60 \text{ dots}) + (10 \text{ dots}) = 70$$

Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan (DRAFT)

7. Expand funding for open space and recreation facilities and programs and improvements

- Propose Community Preservation Act (CPA) for adoption by Town Meeting.
- Establish a memorial fund which can receive donations to be used for park improvements.
- Establish trust fund for improvement of playgrounds, parks, and conservation areas from the sale of surplus municipal lands or tax-title properties.

$$(53 \text{ dots}) + (5 \text{ dots}) = 58$$

8. Improve Annual Maintenance of Parks and Recreation and Conservation sites

- In order to undertake proper maintenance of all park and recreation sites, provide additional town funds to the DPW, which has primary responsibility for parks maintenance.
- Continue to seek partnerships with non-profit groups for park maintenance, but also ensure that the public also has sufficient use of facilities.
- Investigate fee structure for use of town parks and recreation sites, to determine if these should be raised. Use all funds received from parks and recreation permits fees for parks maintenance activities.

$$(81 \text{ dots}) + (9 \text{ dots}) = 90$$

Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan (DRAFT)

Priorities in rank order based on 9-16-17 Town Day and 7-26-17 Drop In event input:

4. Implement the Tri-Community Greenway and Stoneham Complete Streets programs to facilitate walking, hiking and bicycling - (116 dots)
 8. Improve Annual Maintenance of Parks and Recreation and Conservation sites - (90 dots)
 1. Improve all neighborhood playgrounds within the town over the next 10 years - (88 dots)
 3. Assign Conservation Commission or other committee to work with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on expanded use of Spot Pond and Middlesex Fells Reservation - (85 dots)
 5. Acquisition of additional areas for recreational facilities or conservation area - (71 dots)
 2. Improve all town recreation facilities within the town over the next 10 years - (70 dots)
 6. Develop a plan for the continuation and expansion of the breadth and frequency of events at the Common, as well as other locations such as Whip Hill Park - (70 dots)
 7. Expand funding for open space and recreation facilities and programs and improvements - (58 dots)
-

